



**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

June 25, 2003

Ms. Kristina Stege  
Embassy of the Republic of  
the Marshall Islands  
2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ms. Stege:

I have enclosed a copy of the Record of Discussion for the Executive Group meeting held last October 23, 2002. I apologize for the delay. Because work was proceeding on many of the issues raised at the first meeting, and because the record is informal in nature, I did not forward it. For historical purposes, keeping a continuous record is useful and it is sent to you in that spirit. I enjoyed working with you in San Francisco, California, and trust that we will work together in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven V. Cary".

Steven V. Cary  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Health Studies

Enclosure



**RECORD OF DISCUSSION  
FOR  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) / REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL  
ISLANDS (RMI) EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2002**

Ambassador Banny de Brum and Deputy Assistant Secretary Steven Cary welcomed the Working Group (WG) delegates and expressed their wish that the group begins a new higher level of collaboration between DOE and RMI. The draft Charter was discussed and minor changes were made to the document that will be circulated for signature.

Impact of "177 Health Care Program" Termination: The discussions covered a wide range of topics, mostly dealing with the special medical program for Rongelap and Utrik Atolls. A major question was expressed concerning the impact, on the DOE medical program, of the termination of the 177 Health Care Program (HCP) in July 2003. The delegates agreed that how we deliver health care is more critical than ever. RMI has asked congressional members to provide \$4 million for fiscal year (FY) 2003 for the 177 HCP, and it has been stated that Senator Daniel K. Inouye will request the additional money. The Pacific Health Research Institute will be tasked to assess the impact, and how DOE might respond. No deadline was set for a response, but it is expected to be ready by March 2003.

Special Medical Program Needs: Ambassador de Brum presented a letter from Minister Gerald Zackios addressed to Deputy Assistant Secretary Geoffrey Judge, dated September 2001, regarding the medical needs of DOE patients on Rongelap and Utrik Atolls. DOE expressed its regrets for the delay and promised a reply in November 2002.

Bikinians Receiving Medical Monitoring Before 1986: Bikini Atoll delegates requested that 125 Bikinians, who were given health care at the request of the Department of the Interior (DOI) from approximately 1979-1986, be included in the special medical program. Mr. William Jackson recalled that the medical care was provided by request of DOI and who agreed to the termination of work when a four-atoll health care program was first introduced.

Petition of Changed Circumstances: Several delegates expressed their concern about the progress of the changed circumstances petition currently in the Department of State (DOS). Mr. Cary told the WG that the DOE role is to provide limited technical support to DOS. The delegates were very concerned about the possibility that Dr. Steve Simon may become involved in this matter and indicated their strong opposition. Mr. Cary noted that this issue is not within the control of DOE, and that delegates should make their position known to DOS.

Importance of Community Meetings: Community meetings that include updates by the medical program and environmental program providers are very desirable. DOE agrees that such communication is very important and will see that each field visit includes as many opportunities as possible to communicate about the program.

Enjebi Island Resettlement: According to Senator Ismael John and his legal counsel, there is a renewed desire to move ahead with resettlement of Enjebi Island (Enewetak Atoll). Resettlement planning would necessitate a new characterization of the radiation environment of Enjebi. This would be a major activity for DOE and would need to be planned well in advance and as part of a review of the Enewetak Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). DOE has asked Dr. Terry Hamilton of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to consider the request and to discuss it in the general session of the next WG meeting.

Runit Dome Responsibility: RMI requested that the U.S. Embassy in Majuro assist with efforts to assign a U.S. Agency with responsibility for monitoring the integrity of the Runit Dome.

Program Financial Reporting: Atoll and RMI officials request detailed information on expenditures for the environmental and medical programs. DOE will provide "top line" information as an attachment to the draft agenda for the June 2003 meeting.

Preparation of 5-Year Plans: DOE was asked whether it has a 5-year Plan for the Marshall Islands Program that the WG might review. Although there is no formal 5-year plan, the contractors have a fairly clear view of where they want to be in 5 years based on professional judgment and influenced by the mandated populations. WG delegates urged any planning effort to emphasize actions that build local capacity rather than fund outsiders. As a first step, beginning with the FY 2002 annual report to Congress on the special medical program, we will ask each contractor to provide their annual report to the WG delegates. In addition, DOE has agreed to discuss the possibility of a 5-year plan with its contractors and to include it on the agenda for the next WG meeting. Along the same line of discussion, a request was made for a consolidated report of the last 5 years of the environmental program. At the WG meeting, DOE will provide a "top line" budget chart from FY 1999 through FY 2002 for discussion purposes.

Environmental Monitoring Data Sharing: Some delegates expressed the need to make all of the environmental data available to their scientists. LLNL has already proposed publishing what they call "Data Reports" to release the raw data as soon as possible without interpretation. The data will be published on the Internet.

Compensation of Cleanup Workers: There was interest in having information about financial compensation for Marshallese working for the U.S. Government or its contractors during cleanup of the atolls. Mr. Cary will discuss this with DOE general counsel and report to the WG at the next meeting.

Visit to Utrik: The Utrik Atoll delegation requested that Mr. Cary visit Utrik Island in the near future to discuss their participation in the medical and environmental program.

Utrik Agricultural Plan: The Utrik Atoll delegation requested a formal response from LLNL on their agricultural plan to reduce uptake of radioactive cesium into the food crops. Dr. Hamilton will talk to Mr. Manase Mansur about a general reply without evaluating the man-

hours of effort to debrush the agricultural areas since this is outside the scope of our MOU with Utrik Atoll.

Next Working Group Meeting: The delegates proposed, and it was agreed, to hold the next WG meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, on June 17, 2003, the day before the annual program meeting.

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Comments reflect those submitted by DOE and RMI